Navigating the QGIS Map View

— Pan & Zoom

- These are the fundamental tools you will use to navigate within the map view (map canvas) in Quantum GIS.
- The **pan** tool is used to drag the map view side-to-side.
    - Activate this tool by clicking the hand icon in the **navigation toolbar**.
    - Click & drag on the canvas to pan.
    - **Or,** hold the spacebar while moving the cursor across the map view to pan.
    - **Or,** tap the arrow keys to nudge the map view incrementally in any direction.*
- The **zoom tools** are of course used to adjust the scale of the map view.
    - The magnifying glass icons in the navigation toolbar represent zoom tools.
    - Use **ctrl + '+'** and **ctrl + '-'** to activate **Zoom +/-** through the keyboard.
    - Click to zoom incrementally.
    - (With **Zoom +**) Click & drag to zoom to a desired extent. (Very handy!)
    - **Or,** use **pageup** / **pagedown** or **fn + ↑** / **fn + ↓** to zoom in/out incrementally.*
    - **Or, use your mouse scroll wheel or equivalent scrolling function to zoom.**
    - If scrolling zooms too quickly or too slowly, go to *QGIS > Preferences…* and look under *Map Tools > Panning and Zooming* to set the zoom factor. The zoom factor must be 1.1 or greater.

    * Panning and zooming with keys will only work if the map canvas is the active frame. Click on the map canvas to make it the active frame.

- If you get 'lost', try using the **Zoom to Layer** tool, which re-centers and re-scales the map view so as to fit a layer neatly within the frame. You can access this tool by right-clicking on a layer in the Layers Panel and accessing the drop-down menu.
- Zoom to Layer can also be found in the **navigation toolbar**, however this button only works if there is an active layer.
- Some other similar (and similarly useful) tools include:
    - "**Zoom Full**" (zoom the map view to visible layers)
    - "**Zoom Last**" (return the map view to its previous/most recent extents*).*

— Select Features

- The **Select Features** ("Select") tool is an essential tool. Feature selection helps guide various functions like copy/paste, assigning attributes, zoom to selection and many more advanced applications. The Select tool can be accessed through the Attributes Toolbar.
- Click on a feature to select it.

- Ctrl-click (command-click for Mac) on a feature to deselect it.
- Multiple features can be selected at once by dragging a rectangle/extent with the cursor. Any features intersected by the extent will be selected.
- Similarly, multiple features can be deselected at once.
- Select an additional feature, or deselect a feature, by holding the **ctrl key** (command key on Mac) while clicking.
- Multiple features can be added to or removed from the selection at once by using the ctrl/command key with click-and-drag.
- Here are some more useful zoom tools that require a feature to be selected first:
    - "**Zoom to Selection**" (center map view on active selection & zoom to) *
    - "**Pan to Selection**" (center map view on selection without changing the scale) *

— Identify Features

- The **Identify Features** ("ID") tool is a useful way to get information about an object. It can be accessed through the **attributes toolbar**. (or using our new **Shift + A** hotkey)
- This tool will return attributes of a feature within the **active layer**. To make a layer active, click on it in the layers panel.
- Right-click with the ID tool to open a drop-down menu allowing you to ID features on non-active layers, or to ID one of two or more features which are very close together.
- Highlighting a feature with the ID tool does not equate to selecting a feature.
- A feature will remain highlighted until you ctrl/command-click it, or click elsewhere on the canvas.
- Different layer types contain different information. What information the ID tool returns depends on what layer you use it on.

— Setting New Hotkeys (Optional)

- For those who like to use keyboard shortcuts (hotkeys), QGIS hotkey bindings are fully customizable. Go to *Settings > Configure Shortcuts…* to customize hotkeys.
- Almost any operation can be assigned a hotkey.
- We recommend assigning the following shortcuts (you can, of course, use your own):
    - **Identify Features** — Shift + A
    - **Pan Map** — Shift + C
    - **Select Feature(s)** — Shift + S
    - **Zoom** — Shift + Z
    - **Zoom to Layer** — Shift + X
- Experiment with these & appreciate how much easier it is to navigate around!